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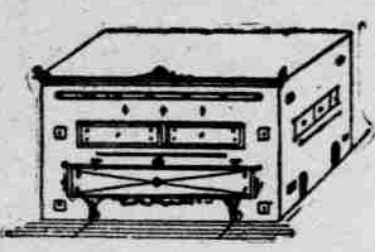
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STARTING THE WHEELS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

By Ernest G. Walker.

(Mail Special to the Advertiser, Continued from Yesterday.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 8, 1909.

—Thus far he is observing about the same office hours that Mr. Roosevelt observed. He expects to get over to his office about 9:30 in the morning, which is a half hour earlier than Mr. Roosevelt was accustomed to getting there. Mr. Roosevelt usually went to luncheon about 1 o'clock. Mr. Taft plans to go to luncheon about 2 o'clock. He has started out by taking a little exercise daily. Thus far his exercise has been principally walking. His first exercise, after his inauguration, was to go walking in the snow and slush with his two brothers. Although a heavy man in avoirdupois the President can walk very rapidly, more rapidly than suits his average walking companion. He walks so fast, when he tries, that some men would have to proceed at a dog trot to keep up. On the morning of March 5, the Seventh New York regiment, which arrived in Washington too late for the inaugural parade, asked that the President review them from the main inaugural stand. He put on his hat and walked across the White House grounds at a pace which only the best of pedestrians could equal. Governor Hughes of New York had made a special request for the review and was walking around very lively himself that morning. But the Governor was out of breath keeping up with the President.

Probably President Taft will not work as much very late at night as Mr. Roosevelt used to do but he will arise earlier in the morning. He expects to put plenty of work upon his cabinet officers, to whom he will leave many things that Mr. Roosevelt used to look after in person. There has been a great difference among Presidents in that regard and according as more work is placed upon cabinet officers are they allowed real importance in the conduct of an administration. It used to be said that Mr. Cleveland's cabinet officers were little more than clerks. Harrison relied much upon his cabinet, as did McKinley. Some Presidents seek the advice of cabinet officers more and others less. President Taft, as indications go up to the present moment, intends to benefit from the advice of his cabinet and to weigh their opinions carefully before deciding upon a course of action. He had said that he wanted able lawyers in his cabinet

that he might have the benefit of the soundest and most expert legal advice on every important step he might take. He has had already to face an influx of office-seekers, but they have not been as numerous as at the beginning of some former administrations. The volume of applications for office are piling up daily. Senators and Representatives of the Republican party are flocking over the threshold to urge appointments. The extra session of the Senate adjourned after three days and the proclamation calling an extra session of Congress to convene March 15 has been issued. In the brief time intervening, most members of the law-making body are tarrying in town and the Republicans thereof are improving the time to some extent by ascertaining what can be expected from the Taft tree of patronage.

As a matter of fact, however, there will be fewer offices to fill than most persons might suppose, for there is, of course, no change in politics or of policies between the two administrations and many thousands of officeholders, nominated for a four years' term, will be allowed to serve out their time. A half dozen Ambassadors and a score of Ministers plenipotentiary will be displaced and also about a score of men filling important administrative positions in the departments.

Tariff Revision.

Just at present President Taft is most concerned about obtaining an early revision of the tariff. What he has said in public speeches and in his inaugural address about the importance of an early revision upon the revival of business he is emphasizing in detail during his talks with influential visitors. "Uncle Joe" Cannon has recently stated that every day of delay in completing the revision probably means a difference of \$10,000,000 to the country in production and consumption. The President agrees thoroughly with that idea and he loses no opportunity to smooth the way as much as possible for the legislation. Special efforts have been made during the last two or three weeks to encourage the most friendly relations with Congress and it is one of the most pleasing features of Mr. Taft's early days in the White House that Senators and Representatives of all factions have reciprocated in kind and have given him the most cordial assurances of their desire to cooperate with him. Among his first callers, the day after inauguration, were the Republicans of the Ways and Means Committee, who have as good as completed their revision bill, upon which the finishing touches are being put this

week so that it will be ready for consideration in the House next week, as soon as the organization is perfected.

Reform Legislation.

President Taft has prepared much of his program for six or eight months. Just as soon as the tariff bill is out of the way, he has promised to work out recommendations for reform legislation in line with the Roosevelt policies for the control of railroads and other corporations. He has said within a day or two, as demonstrating something of his general purpose, that he wishes to urge as few and as brief amendments to the Sherman anti-trust law as may be. He does not want to disturb business by sweeping legislative changes; neither does he want legislation so sweeping that it will render useless a large body of judicial opinions affecting the interpretation of existing laws. He will not encourage Congress to touch any other general legislation than that affecting the tariff at its extra session.

The Secretary of State.

Secretary of State Knox, like most of his cabinet colleagues, had a happy induction into office. Because of his long cabinet experience as Attorney General under two different Presidents, he knew how to settle down to business promptly as soon as he and most of the other cabinet officers had gone to the White House Saturday morning and all taken the oath as administered by Chief Justice Fuller.

The first man to congratulate Secretary Knox was his prospective successor in the Senate, George T. Oliver, of Pittsburg. Mr. Oliver's appearance at the State Department was the signal for the fixing up of political differences between him and Mr. Knox, the latter having favored the election of Representative "Jimmie" Burke, of Pittsburg, for Senator. As soon as congratulations were over Secretary Knox and Mr. Oliver talked senatorial politics for a few moments and the Secretary assured the prospective Senator of support in winning the election which will take place at Harrisburg next week. Mr. Oliver had already virtually won his fight. He afterward had a talk with Representative Burke, in which they settled their differences and parted in political friendliness. This done Mr. Oliver hurried back to Pennsylvania expecting to return here in about ten days with his credentials and to take the oath as Senator forthwith.

Secretary Knox has been disappointed because the Congress refused to authorize an under secretary or vice secretary of state and also a fourth assistant secretary. He wanted those two officials to facilitate the work of the State Department during his administration there. The Senate voted the authority for the two additional offices with alacrity, but the House was stoutly opposed and fought the proposition to the very last ditch. The

proposition to increase the President's salary to \$100,000 a year, which was carried on the same appropriation bill, was saved only in part. The opposition to it was the same opposition that fought the additional offices in the Department of State.

Taft's Salary \$75,000.

By the agreement which was finally reached, President Taft will have a salary of \$75,000 a year, or \$6250 a month. It is more than was ever paid to any previous President in salary. But Congress cut off the allowance of \$25,000 a year for traveling expenses which it has been giving to President Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt did not spend all of that amount for traveling, and it will not cost Mr. Taft, probably, half of \$25,000 a year for transportation. Therefore, all round, he gains something in compensation.

New Attorney General.

There is great official interest in the new Attorney General, Mr. Wickersham, because he will be one of the most important of cabinet officers during the next four years and also because as a public official he is an unknown quantity in Washington. He was the first of the cabinet to be sworn in, and, in fact, took the oath on Friday, after the inauguration, the day before most of his colleagues took the oath.

President Taft intends to place great reliance upon Mr. Wickersham in outlining the policy to be followed toward the trusts and corporations. He has said recently that he does not propose to make "special" the libel suits in the name of the government, which President Roosevelt pressed with great zeal, but that he would regard them simply as cases before the Department of Justice, like many other cases there. Mr. Wickersham will probably have as much important business to bring to the cabinet table as any other of Mr. Taft's advisers.

Secretary MacVeagh.

The new Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Frank MacVeagh of Chicago, was the last cabinet officer to be selected and probably will be the last to be sworn in. There is an interesting story in inside circles as to the care which Mr. Taft exercised in selecting this cabinet officer, who has great financial problems to tackle during the next year or two. As Mr. MacVeagh in his department will have much to do with questions of government revenues, upon which Congress will be called to legislate, President Taft wanted the new Secretary of the Treasury to be acceptable to the leaders in both branches of Congress. When Mr. Taft was last in New York, he sent for Senator Aldrich, who was asked his opinion of Mr. MacVeagh and was then requested, on returning (Continued on Page Ten.)

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